

## ***PARENT UPDATE***

### ***A Summary of a Recent Meeting of the District-Wide Parent Committee***

November 12, 2019

#### **Call to Order/Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at State Road Elementary.

#### **Attendance**

Central High School: Not represented  
 LaCrossroads: Not represented  
 Logan High School: Not represented  
 Lincoln Middle School: Laura Eber, Laura Olson  
 Logan Middle School: Not represented  
 Longfellow Middle School: Not represented  
 LaCrosse Design Institute: Not represented  
 SOTA II: Kyle Backstrand  
 Coulee Montessori Elementary: Nell Saunders-Scott  
 Coulee Montessori Adolescent: Nathan Warnberg  
 Emerson: Not represented  
 Northside Elementary: David Delimat  
 Hamilton: Kate Holinka  
 Hintgen: Tammy Rudie  
 North Woods International: Calison Weiss  
 Southern Bluffs: Not represented  
 SOTA I: Dawn Wacek  
 Spence: Pam Hansen, Heather Young

State Road: Jed Olson, Tammy Wills  
 Summit: Not represented  
 Members at Large: Trista Treglowne  
 BOE Liaison: Keonte Turner  
 LEA Liaison: Not represented  
 Superintendent:  
     Randy Nelson  
 Executive Director of Business Services:  
     Patty Sprang (excused)  
 Associate Superintendent/Instruction:  
     Troy Harcey (excused)  
 Director of Elementary Education:  
     Shelley Shirel  
 Director of Secondary Education:  
     Stacey Everson  
 La Crosse Public Education Foundation:  
     David Stoeffler  
 Visitors: Brianna Ring, Lyn Halvorson

#### **iFeed Presentation**

Presented by Laura Bogey and Emily Johnson: discussed the very successful iFeed campaign. Around 432 volunteers this year and 12 tons of food.

#### **School Showcase: State Road Elementary**

Presented by Jac Lyga: Jac is the new principal at State Road, based on STAR assessment they are developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for English Language Arts. They are focusing on a soft landing for students to help ease the transition into the academic day. Focus on closing achievement/equity/opportunity gaps between different socioeconomic classes of students. Overall, use the PLC framework to develop stronger community between faculty, staff and students.

#### **Wellness Policy**

Presented by Brianna Ring, Lyn Halvorson, Jordan Gilge, Jon Baudek and Tracy Caravella: having a Wellness Policy is federally mandated as of 2004. This is the fourth revision to the School District of La Crosse's Wellness Policy. The goal is to improve the Health and Safety of children (and staff/faculty) and improve equity. Recess was one topic discussed. There is research showing that putting recess before lunch reduces food waste considerably and anecdotally reduces many other lunchtime issues. This will be encouraged around the district. Twelve states have passed laws guaranteeing recess and it was suggested that we strengthen our Wellness Policy language so that taking recess away as punishment will not be tolerated.

There was a long discussion about the new food policies. Most of the rationale for the food policy updates are fully supported by DWP. We appreciate that their task is a hard one. There are concerns:

- 1.) Eliminating all food celebrations by 2023. Many, if not all, cultures celebrate with food and the Wellness Policy seems to be telling us what type of food we are allowed to celebrate with. There is also concern that instead of celebrating with food we will celebrate with 'stuff' i.e.

plastic toys and trinkets that are not good for the long-term health of the environment and thus our children.

- 2.) There seems to be an attempt to make sugar public enemy number 1. We realize that there are health concerns associated with too much sugar in a diet but an all out ban could have the opposite of the intended effect. It seems like maybe we are avoiding having the really hard conversations with students and doing the hard work that comes with teaching responsibility about health and wellness (which is a lifelong, consistent messaging process) and instead taking the easy road and banning sweets all out.
- 3.) No home made food brought to school to share during schools hours. This can affect fundraisers and thoughtful, loving things that many PTO members do for faculty and staff. For example, during teacher conferences Coulee Montessori and NorthSide have potluck for all the teachers. Other PTOs give homemade cookies and treats to teachers around the holiday season.

To be clear, there are arguments in favor of each of these policy decisions and many of them make sense. We need to decide how to balance the health, safety and equity of our students and the reality that food and the food-making process give many opportunities for our schools and communities to come together in very positive ways. We appreciate the time and effort that the Wellness team put into this process.

### **La Crosse Public Education Foundation**

Presented by David Stoeffler: mentioned the new podcast series and that there are two new endowment funds thanks to Dr. Tom Thompson and Randy Nelson.

### **Superintendent Update**

Presented by Randy Nelson: 2 hour delays are going to try and be avoided as they are logistically challenging. School board member applications are due in December. There is a superintendent search in progress and Randy Nelson is retiring. We thanked him, here, for his service and will certainly thank him on many more occasions.

Middle/High school update: Xello is a 6-12 grade software program used to help students plan for their future, we are trying to find a way to measure students belonging and safety and make more connections between the classroom and the real world.

Elementary update: Walk to school events have been successful, parenting place programs for parents are starting to be hosted by the district, look for the HPL newsletter.

### **Joys/Concerns**

State Road is doing a three hour, free event with food and drinks provided at Pla-Mor Lanes to encourage and build community.

SOTA switched from chips to equal exchange and raised \$2000.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Five Year School Improvement Planning (each meeting)
- Legislative Update (Begin in January)
- Equity (October-May agendas)
- Board Linkage (April agenda)
- Trauma-Informed (Resilience)
- YRBS Results
- Addressing Disruptive Behaviors
- Sports/Extra-Curricular Participation
- Professional Development of Teachers
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Sustainability Practices
- Wellness Policy
- Student Code
- Curriculum and Instruction Updates (elementary, middle, and secondary)
- School Safety
  - Grant, New Systems
  - High Schools (backpacks, etc.)
- PTO Best Practices/Fundraising
- One-to-One Devices

District Wide Parent Committee

October 8, 2019

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- Year-Round School Update
- AVID Update – Troy McDonald
- High School Future Centers
- RTI - Early intervention
- Budget updates; legislative updates; innovative programs, clubs, projects in district
- Dealing with bullying amongst friends

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, December 17 2019, Central High School, 7:00PM**

